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THE PORT AUTHORITY

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From Nancy E. Greenberg Room 68W 466-7759

Date 12 / 22 /82

After discussions with Bob Linn, Harry Barr and members of Risk Management, attached is the response to New York Times reporter Dylan Landis on Monday, December 20.

She had inquired whether the Port Authority has a program for the removal of asbestos present in the World Trade Center and what costs are involved in the measures.

Ms. Landis expects the article to appear in the business section within the next two weeks. It will begin on a positive note, with a description of companies like the Port Authority which have taken action to deal with the substance in their buildings. Following this will be the bulk of the article: those companies which have done the minimal or nothing at all in this situation.

NEG
Assistant Information Officer

12/29/82 -
Bill
FYI
Please return

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
PX-661

December 20, 1982

Asbestos removal prog: at the WTC
Response to New York Times inquiry: Dylan Landis, reporter Tel. 556-1533

The World Trade Center contains a minimal amount of asbestos, confined predominantly to locations above the ceilings of the first 38 floors of One World Trade Center, the north tower.

The substance has been sealed by overspraying so as to have no effect on tenants, Port Authority employees or visitors.

Prior to 1970, the Port Authority followed the prevailing standards in the construction industry for the installation of fire-proofing materials which contained asbestos. When concern arose over the possible health hazards which may be associated with asbestos, the agency voluntarily and promptly took the following measures:

o Structural surfaces containing the asbestos fire-proofing were encapsulated by overspraying with another chemical substance to provide a seal or barrier. The seal was colored with a dye to identify the areas that were covered. This federally-approved procedure negated the need to remove the asbestos. The cost involved in this contract was $310,500.00.

o In 1970 the Port Authority adopted a policy of using a non-asbestos type of fire-proofing, called spray-on fire-proofing (which is more expensive than the original method.)

o The Port Authority's Risk Management Division periodically monitors the air in the areas where the asbestos has been sealed, taking a fiber count in these locations to assure the effectiveness of the sealant chemical. Test results have shown the World Trade Center to be well within the standards set by OSHA.